

Underworld

The **underworld**, also known as the **netherworld**, is the supernatural world of the dead in various religious traditions and myths, located below the world of the living.^[1] Chthonic is the technical adjective for things of the underworld.

The concept of an underworld is found in almost every civilization and "may be as old as humanity itself".^[2] Common features of underworld myths are accounts of living people making journeys to the underworld, often for some heroic purpose. Other myths reinforce traditions that entrance of souls to the underworld requires a proper observation of ceremony, such as the ancient Greek story of the recently dead Patroclus haunting Achilles until his body could be properly buried for this purpose.^[3] Persons having social status were dressed and equipped in order to better navigate the underworld.^[4]

A number of mythologies incorporate the concept of the soul of the deceased making its own journey to the underworld, with the dead needing to be taken across a defining obstacle such as a lake or a river to reach this destination.^[5] Imagery of such journeys can be found in both ancient and modern art. The descent to the underworld has been described as "the single most important myth for Modernist authors".^[6]

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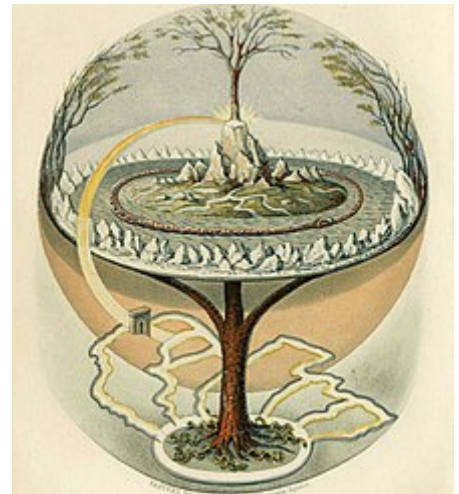
See also

References

External links

By religion

This list includes underworlds in various religious traditions, with links to corresponding articles:



Yggdrasil, a modern attempt to reconstruct the Norse world tree which connects the heavens, the earth and the underworld



The legs of the god Vishnu as the Cosmic Man depict earth and the seven realms of the Hindu underworld of Patala. The feet rest on cosmic serpent Shesha

Ethnicity, religion, or region	Name of underworld
<u>Albanian mythology</u>	<u>Ferri</u>
<u>Aztec mythology</u>	<u>Mictlan</u>
<u>Mesopotamian mythology</u>	<u>Irkalla</u>
<u>Buddhism</u>	<u>Naraka</u> (also <u>Niraya</u>)
<u>Celtic mythology</u>	<u>Annwn</u> , <u>Mag Mell</u> , <u>Dubnos</u>
<u>Chinese folk religion</u> / <u>Taoism</u>	<u>Míngjiè</u> 冥界, <u>Huángquán</u> 黄泉, <u>Diyù</u> 地狱
<u>Christianity</u>	<u>Hell</u> , <u>Tártaro</u> , <u>Purgatory</u> , <u>Hades</u>
<u>Egyptian mythology</u>	<u>Aaru</u> , <u>Duat</u> , <u>Neter-khertet</u> , <u>Amenti</u>
<u>Estonian mythology</u>	<u>Toonela</u>
<u>Fijian mythology</u>	<u>Burotu</u> , <u>Murimuria</u> ^[7]
<u>Finnish mythology</u>	<u>Tuonela</u>
<u>Georgian mythology</u>	<u>Kveskneli</u>
<u>Germanic mythology</u>	<u>Hel</u> , <u>Niflheim</u>
<u>Greek mythology</u>	<u>Elysium</u> , <u>Asphodel Meadows</u> , <u>Tártaros</u>
<u>Guanche mythology</u>	<u>Echeide</u> , <u>Guayota</u>
<u>Hinduism</u>	<u>Patala</u> , <u>Naraka</u> or <u>Yamaloka</u>
<u>Hittite mythology</u>	<u>Dankuš daganzipaş</u> / <u>Dankuš tekan</u> (dark earth)
<u>Hopi mythology</u>	<u>Maski</u>
<u>Hungarian mythology</u>	<u>Alvilág</u>
<u>Inca mythology</u>	<u>Uku Pacha</u>
<u>Inuit mythology</u>	<u>Adlivun</u>
<u>Islam</u>	<u>Jahannam</u> , <u>Sijjin</u>
<u>Jainism</u>	<u>Naraka</u> , <u>Adho Loka</u> (the lower world)
<u>Shinto</u>	<u>Yomi</u> 黄泉, <u>Ne-no-Kuni</u> 根の国, <u>Jigoku</u> 地獄
<u>Judaism</u>	<u>Sheol</u> , <u>Gehenna</u> , <u>Abaddon</u> , <u>Tehom</u> (in <u>Kabbalah</u>), <u>Tophet</u> , <u>Tzoah Rotachat</u> , <u>Dudael</u>
<u>Korean mythology</u>	"Ji-Ok" 지옥 地獄
<u>Latvian mythology</u>	<u>Aizsaule</u>
<u>Lithuanian mythology</u>	<u>Anapilis</u>
<u>Malay mythology</u>	<i>Alam Ghaib</i> (The unseen realm)
<u>Indonesian mythology</u>	
<u>Mandaeism</u>	<u>World of Darkness</u> (<i>alma d-hšuka</i>)
<u>Māori mythology</u>	<u>Hawaiki</u> , <u>Rarohenga</u> , <u>Rangi Tuarea</u> , <u>Te Toi-o-nga-Ranga</u> , <u>Uranga-o-Te-Ra</u>
<u>Mapuche mythology</u>	<u>Pellumawida</u> , <u>Degin</u> , <u>Wenuleufu</u> , <u>Ngullchenmaiwe</u>
<u>Maya mythology</u>	<u>Xibalba</u> or <u>Metnal</u>

Melanesian mythology	(includes Fijian) Bulu , Burotu , Murimuria , Nabagatai , Tuma
Norse mythology	Gimlé , Hel , Niflhel , Vingólf
Oromo mythology	Ekerá
Persian mythology	Duzakh
Philippine mythology	Kasanaan
Polynesian mythology	Avaiki , Bulotu , Iva , Lua-o-Milu , Nga- Atua , Pulotu , Rangi Tuarea , Te Toi-o-nga-Ranga , Uranga-o-Te-Ra
Pueblo mythology	Shipap
Roman mythology	Inferi , Avernus
Romanian mythology	Tărâmul Celălalt
Slavic mythology	Nav , Podsvetie , Peklo , Vyraj
Sumerian mythology	Kur , Hubur
Turko-Mongol	Tamağ
Vodou	Guinee
Wagawaga (New Guinea) mythology	Hiyoyoa

Underworld figures

This list includes rulers or guardians of the underworld in various religious traditions, with links to corresponding articles.

Origin	God
<u>Aboriginal mythology</u>	<u>Baiame</u> (Kamilaroi), <u>Eingana</u>
<u>Akkadian mythology</u>	<u>Allu</u> , <u>Anu</u> , <u>Anunnaku</u> , <u>Ereshkigal</u> , <u>Etemmu</u> , <u>Gallu</u> , <u>Humbaba</u> , <u>Mamitu</u> , <u>Nergal</u> , <u>Utnapishtim</u>
<u>Albanian mythology</u>	<u>E Bukura e Dheut</u>
<u>Turko-Mongol</u>	<u>Erlık</u>
<u>Armenian mythology</u>	<u>Spandaramet</u>
<u>Aztec mythology</u>	<u>Mictlantecuhtli</u> & <u>Mictecacihuatl</u> (advocations: <u>Chalmecacihualt</u> , <u>Chalmecatl</u>)
<u>Babylonian mythology</u>	<u>Erra</u> , <u>Nergal</u> , <u>Ninlil</u> , <u>Sursunabu</u> , <u>Ur-shanabi</u> , <u>Utnapishtim</u>
<u>Balinese mythology</u>	<u>Batara Kala</u> , <u>Setesuyara</u>
<u>Bon mythology</u>	<u>gNyan</u>
<u>Buddhism</u>	<u>King Yama</u>
<u>Canaanite mythology</u>	<u>Mot</u> , <u>Arsay</u>
<u>Celtic mythology</u>	<u>Aed</u> , <u>Arawn</u> , <u>Cwn Annwn</u> , <u>Donn</u> , <u>Gwyn ap Nudd</u> , <u>Manannán mac Lir</u> , <u>Pwyll</u>
<u>Chinese folk religion</u>	<u>Yanluo Wang</u> , <u>Heibai Wuchang</u> , <u>Ox-Head and Horse-Face</u> , <u>Meng Po</u> , <u>Zhong Kui</u>
<u>Christianity</u>	<u>Satan</u> , <u>Lucifer</u> , <u>Beelzebub</u> , <u>Belial</u>
<u>Egyptian mythology</u>	<u>Aken</u> , <u>Aker</u> (strictly only the gatekeeper), <u>Am-heh</u> , <u>Amunet</u> , <u>Ammit</u> , <u>Andjety</u> , <u>Anubis</u> , <u>Apep</u> , <u>Apis</u> , <u>Astennu</u> , <u>Ha</u> , <u>Imiut</u> (if the Imiut was ever considered a god), <u>Isis</u> , <u>Mehen</u> , <u>Naunet</u> , <u>Nehebkau</u> , <u>Nephthys</u> , <u>Nun</u> , <u>Nut</u> , <u>Osiris</u> , <u>Ptah</u> , <u>Seker</u> , <u>Thoth</u>
<u>Elamite mythology</u>	<u>Jabru</u>
<u>Estonian mythology</u>	<u>Vanapagan</u>
<u>Etruscan mythology</u>	<u>Charun</u> , <u>Culsu</u> , <u>Februus</u> , <u>Mania</u> , <u>Mantus</u> , <u>Nethuns</u> , <u>Tuchulcha</u> , <u>Vanth</u>
<u>Fijian mythology</u>	<u>Degei</u>
<u>Finnish mythology</u>	<u>Kalma</u> , <u>Kipu-Tyttö</u> , <u>Kivutar</u> , <u>Lovitar</u> , <u>Surma</u> , <u>Tuonen akka</u> , <u>Tuonetar</u> , <u>Tuoni</u> , <u>Vammatar</u>
<u>Greek mythology</u>	<u>Cerberus</u> , <u>Charon</u> , <u>Hades</u> , <u>Pluto</u> , <u>Keres</u> , <u>Persephone</u> , <u>Thánatos</u>
<u>Georgian mythology</u>	<u>sasuleti</u>
<u>Haida mythology</u>	<u>Ta'xet</u> , <u>Tia</u>
<u>Hattian mythology</u> , <u>Hittite mythology</u>	<u>Lelwani</u>
<u>Hinduism</u>	<u>Yama</u>
<u>Hopi mythology</u>	<u>Maasaw</u>
<u>Hungarian mythology</u>	<u>Ördög</u>
<u>Ibo mythology</u>	<u>Ala</u>
<u>Incan mythology</u>	<u>Supay</u> , <u>Vichama</u>
<u>Indonesian mythology</u> (ancient Javanese, Sundanese and Balinese)	<u>Batara Kala</u> guardian for sinners souls' underworld, <u>Dewi Sri</u> guardess for the righteous souls' underworld
<u>Islamic mythology</u>	<u>Iblis</u> (Satan), <u>Maalik</u> (Guardian)
<u>Inuit mythology</u>	<u>Pana</u> , <u>Sedna</u>
<u>Japanese mythology</u>	<u>Izanami-no-Mikoto</u> , <u>Jikininki</u> , <u>Shikome</u> , <u>Shiryō</u> , <u>Susanoo-no-Mikoto</u>

<u>Judaism</u>	Satan, Malach HaMavet ("Angel of Death") (both are associated with <u>Samael</u>), Malachei Habala ("Sabotage Angels"), <u>Dumah</u>
<u>Kassite mythology</u>	<u>Dur</u>
<u>Khmer mythology</u>	<u>Preas Eyssaur</u>
<u>Latvian mythology</u>	<u>Veļi</u> , <u>Veļu māte</u> , <u>Zemes māte</u>
<u>Lithuanian mythology</u>	<u>Velnias</u> , <u>Velinas</u>
<u>Levantine mythology</u>	<u>Mot</u> , <u>Arsay</u>
<u>Lunda mythology</u>	<u>Kalunga</u>
<u>Mandaeen mythology</u>	<u>Ruha</u> , <u>Ur</u> , <u>Krun</u> , <u>Gaf</u> , <u>Qin</u> , <u>Zahreil</u> , <u>Lilith</u> , <u>Niuli</u> , <u>Saṭani</u> , <u>Latabi</u> , <u>Nalai</u> , <u>Gadulta</u> , <u>Anathan</u> , <u>Giu</u> , <u>Shdum</u> , <u>Zartai-Zartanai</u> , <u>Hag</u> , <u>Mag</u>
<u>Maori mythology</u>	<u>Hina</u> , <u>Hine-nui-te-Po</u> , <u>Kewa</u> , <u>Mahiuki</u> , <u>Rohe</u> , <u>Whiro</u>
<u>Maya mythology</u>	<u>Ah Puch</u> (Lords: <u>Hun-Came</u> & <u>Vucub-Came</u>)
<u>Melanesian mythology</u>	(includes Fijian mythology) <u>Degei</u> , <u>Ratumaibulu</u> , <u>Samulayo</u>
<u>Narragansett mythology</u>	<u>Chepi</u>
<u>Navaho mythology</u>	<u>Estsanatlehi</u>
<u>Niquiran mythology</u>	<u>Mictanteot</u>
<u>Norse mythology</u>	<u>Garmr</u> , <u>Hel</u> , <u>Ran</u> , <u>Nidhogg</u>
<u>Ugrian mythology</u>	<u>Heini-iki</u>
<u>Orokolo mythology</u>	<u>Kiavari</u>
<u>Persian mythology</u>	<u>Angra Mainyu</u> , <u>Azhi Dahaka</u> , <u>Peri</u>
<u>Philippine mythology</u>	<u>Magwayen/Maguayen</u> , <u>Sidapa</u>
<u>Phoenician mythology</u>	<u>Horon</u>
<u>Phrygian mythology</u>	<u>Men</u>
<u>Polynesian mythology</u>	<u>Hikuleo</u> , <u>Hina</u> , <u>Hine-nui-te-Po</u> , <u>Kanaloa</u> , <u>Kiho-tumu</u> , <u>Makea Tutara</u> , <u>Mahuika</u> , <u>Mahu-ika</u> , <u>Marama</u> , <u>Mauri</u> , <u>Merau</u> , <u>Milu</u> , <u>Miru</u> , <u>Rimu</u> , <u>Rohe</u> , <u>Whiro</u>
<u>Prussian mythology</u>	<u>Picullus</u>
<u>Pueblo mythology</u>	<u>Iyatiku</u>
<u>Roma (Gypsy) mythology</u>	<u>Beng</u>
<u>Roman mythology</u>	<u>Cerberus</u> , <u>Dea Tacita</u> , <u>Dis Pater</u> , <u>Egestes</u> , <u>Fames</u> , <u>Inferi Dii</u> , <u>Larenta</u> , <u>Letum</u> , <u>Libitina</u> , <u>Mors</u> , <u>Orcus</u> , <u>Pluto</u> , <u>Proserpina</u> , <u>Viduus</u>
<u>Romanian mythology</u>	<u>Diavolu</u> , <u>Satana</u> , <u>Necuratu</u> , <u>Scaraoschi</u>
<u>Russian mythology</u>	<u>Dyavol</u> , <u>Satanaya</u>
<u>Saami mythology</u>	<u>Yambe-akka</u>
<u>Salish mythology</u>	<u>Amotken</u>
<u>Siberian mythology</u>	<u>Chebeldei</u> , <u>Kul</u>
<u>Slavic mythology</u>	<u>Crnobog</u> , <u>Flins</u> , <u>Marzana</u> , <u>Nyia</u> , <u>Veles (god)</u>
<u>Sumerian mythology</u>	<u>Edimmu</u> , <u>Ekimmu</u> , <u>Endukugga</u> , <u>Enmesarra</u> , <u>Ereshkigal</u> , <u>Gidim</u> , <u>Gula</u> , <u>Irkalla</u> , <u>Kur</u> , <u>Namtar</u> , <u>Nergal</u> , <u>Neti</u> , <u>Nindukugga</u> , <u>Ninlil</u> , <u>Urshanabi</u> , <u>Ziusudra</u>
<u>Syrian mythology</u>	<u>Reshep</u>
<u>Tamil mythology</u>	<u>Cur</u>

<u>Thracian mythology</u>	<u>Heros</u>
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<u>Yoruba mythology</u>	<u>Esu</u> , <u>Oya</u>
<u>Yurak mythology</u>	<u>Nga</u>
<u>Zuni mythology</u>	<u>Uhepono</u>

See also

- Afterlife
- Hollow Earth
- Otherworld
- Pure land
- World Tree, a tree that connects the heavens, the earth and the underworld in a number of spiritual belief systems

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